

Ouachita Fencing Crawfish

Faxonella creaseri

Rarity Rank: S2/G2

Identification:

- Body translucent, pale brown with darker specks.
- Pair of grayish-brown stripes extending from behind eyes to tip of tail.
- Stripes bordered laterally on abdomen by stripes of vivid reddish-brown.
- Also occurs in a spotted form.
- Lateral surfaces of carapace grayish, almost white.
- Claws tinged with light orange and are small with inflated palms that are slightly longer than the fingers.
- Mesial margin of palm of claw with single row of 7-9 low tubercles
- 1.6 inches long

Taxonomic comments: Very similar to the ditch fencing crawfish (*Faxonella clypeata*) except that the mesial processes of the first pleopods of form I males are longer – half rather than a third or less the length of the central projection – and cross not only the opposite mesial process, but also the opposite central projection.

Habitat: Shallow temporary pools and roadside ditches.

Food habits: Crawfish in general will eat just about anything including, plants, detritus, small live animals, and carrion.

Reproduction: Unknown, but probably year round.

Threats:

- Degredation or alteration of habitat.
- Chemical pollution.
- Sensitive because of a limited distribution.



Photo by Steve Shively



Photo by Steve Shively



Rare Animals of Louisiana



Beneficial Management Practices:

- Utilize erosion control measures.
- Preserve original hydrology

U. S. Range: Endemic to LA

References:

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